

V. REMARKS

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. The amendments to the subject claims do not incorporate any new subject matter into the claims. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Ozaki et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001-0031658). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ozaki discloses a gaming machine having a main frame 14 that is divided into a top section 14a, a middle section 14b, and a bottom section 14c. The middle section 14b has a square opening 24 in which a front panel 26 is fitted. Transparent EL panels 28a, 28b, and 28c are stacked behind the back face of the front panel 26 and constitute a front panel display. An intermediate panel 27 is behind the transparent EL panels 28a, 28b, and 28c. An EL display control means 50g displays overlapping patterns and gaming information on the transparent EL panels 28a, 28b, and 28c based on display data. A light source 26 is located above a reflective plate 25, and a light source 9 is located behind the reflective plate 25. Light emitted by the light source 9 passes through the reflective plate to the EL panels, while light emitted from the light source 26 is reflected by the reflective plate 25.

Claim 1 is directed to a gaming machine that includes a liquid crystal display device having a liquid crystal panel and a light guiding plate. Claim 1 recites that the light guiding plate is disposed at a rear of the liquid crystal panel and is formed with a light deflection pattern configured to guide light emitted from

illumination means for the liquid crystal panel to the liquid crystal panel. Claim 1 further recites that the light guiding plate is formed with a first light deflection pattern on a periphery of the light transmission area and is formed with a second light deflection pattern in a portion more distant from the light transmission area than the first light deflection pattern. Additionally, claim 1 recites that the first light deflection pattern is formed with a pattern denser than a pattern of the second light deflection pattern.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 1. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach a light guiding plate is formed with a light deflection pattern configured to guide light emitted from illumination means. Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach that the light guiding plate is formed with a first light deflection pattern on a periphery of the light transmission area and is formed with a second light deflection pattern in a portion more distant from the light transmission area than the first light deflection pattern with the first light deflection pattern being formed with a pattern denser than a pattern of the second light deflection pattern. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 4 is directed to a gaming machine that includes a liquid crystal display device having a liquid crystal panel and a light guiding plate. Claim 4 recites that the light guiding plate is disposed at a rear of the liquid crystal panel and is formed with a light deflection pattern configured to guide light emitted from a light source to the liquid crystal panel. Further, claim 4 recites that the light guiding plate is formed with a first light deflection pattern on a periphery of the light transmission area and is formed with a second light deflection pattern in a portion more distant from the light transmission area than the first light deflection pattern. Additionally, claim 4 recites that the first light deflection pattern is formed with a pattern denser than a pattern of the second light deflection pattern.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 4. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach a light guiding plate formed with a light deflection pattern configured to guide light emitted from illumination means for the liquid crystal panel to the liquid crystal panel. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach the light guiding plate is formed with a first light deflection pattern on a periphery of the light transmission area and is formed with a second light deflection pattern in a portion more distant from the light transmission area than the first light deflection pattern with the first light deflection pattern being formed with a pattern denser than a pattern of the second light deflection pattern. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

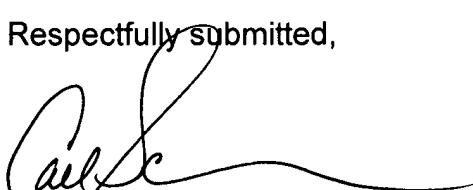
Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 4 and include all of the features of claim 4. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 4 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

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